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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,369	09/25/2003	Kevin W. Kinzler	P06414US00	1863

22885 7590 03/14/2006

MCKEE, VOORHEES & SEASE, P.L.C.
801 GRAND AVENUE
SUITE 3200
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2721

EXAMINER

HORTON, YVONNE MICHELE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3635

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,369

Applicant(s)

KINZLER, KEVIN W.

Examiner

Yvonne M. Horton

Art Unit

3635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,7,10-12 and 15-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,2,5,6,8 and 9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-17,21,22,26 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,7,10-12,18-20,23-25,28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

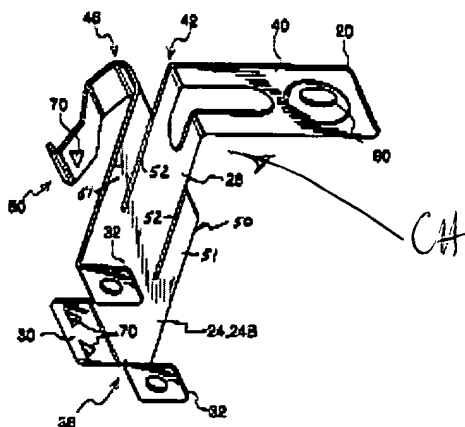
- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

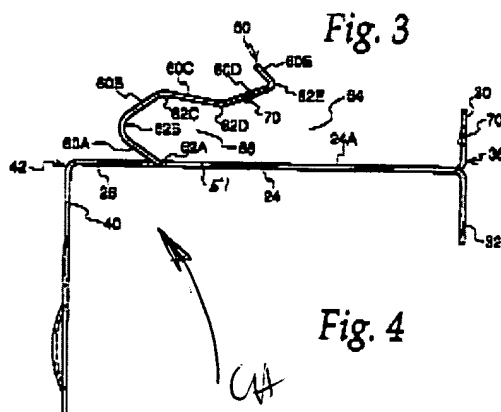
Claims 15-17 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent #5,394,019 to ROTHARMEL et al. Regarding claim 21, ROTHARMEL et al. discloses the use of a clip having a body (24), an arm (26,40) extending over the body (24) to form an upper L-shaped channel (CH), and a pair of legs (60A,60B) and



(51,60C) wherein leg (60A) extending beneath the body (24) and (60C,51) extends towards one another to form a lower channel (54). The applicant is reminded that the manner in which a device is intended to be employed does not differentiate the device from a prior art device satisfying the claimed structural limitations. In reference to claim 15, the clip is one-piece. Regarding claims 16 and 17, the arm (26,40) and the legs (50)

are laterally offset (one on one side of the body and the other on another side of the body) and the arm is resilient, column 8, lines 13-19.

Claims 22,26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent #5,394,019 to ROTHARMEL et al. Regarding claim 22, ROTHARMEL et al. discloses the use of a clip having a body (24), an arm (26,40) extending over the body (24) to form an upper L-shaped channel (CH), and a pair of legs (60A,60B) and



(51,60C) extending beneath the body (24) and (60C,51) extends towards one another to form a lower channel (54); wherein the arm (26,40) and legs (60A,60B) and (51,60C) are laterally offset from one another (one on one side of the body and the other on another side of the body by there being a set (2) of them). The upper channel (CH) has at least three parts (24,26); (40); and (32). In reference to claim 26, the legs (60C,51) extends towards one another. Regarding to claim 27, the clip is one-piece.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-4,7,10-12,18,19,20,23-25 and 28 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the newly revised ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

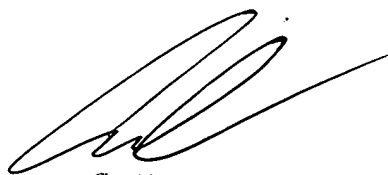
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yvonne M. Horton whose telephone number is (571) 272-6845. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am - 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl D. Friedman can be reached on (571) 272-6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Yvonne M. Horton
Art Unit 3635
03/07/06



Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600